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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
New York, New York

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0 Viorel Donise Trifa
Internal Security - Romania

A confidential source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, recently furnished the following information:

An article in "The New York Times", dated December 26, 1973, accused Bishop Viorel Trifa of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America of participating in atrocities as a student leader in the Iron Guard movement, a fascist-type organization, in 1941 in Romania.

The source said that many members of the Romanian colony feel that the charges against the Bishop are false and that the Romanian Government desires his removal because of his opposition to its communist government. Many emigres are prepared to testify that the charges are false in the event that legal proceedings are taken against the Bishop, according to the source.

The source advised that similar charges were recently brought against a Romanian Orthodox churchman in France but he was acquitted. The charges were reinstituted when the Chief Rabbi of Romania, Moses Rosen, claimed that he could support such charges. The source said that Rabbi Rosen has generally been regarded by the anti-communist Romanian emigres as a longtime ardent supporter of the Romanian communist regime and an active agent in its behalf. The source said that Rabbi Rosen is now in the United States on a visit and it is suspected that he intends to intensify the current campaign against Bishop Trifa.

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